

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Moscow Oblast)

REPORT

SUBJECT A Cable Factory at Moscow

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1. During a recent visit to a Moscow cable factory, five separate departments were seen. In the rolling mill department, bars were being rolled from copper ingots. There appeared to be no shortage of copper in this factory. The wire enameling department was as good as any

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Both oleo-resinous enamels and synthetics were being used, and the range of wire went down to 0.02 mm. Five machines, each of 40 rules, were enameling these very fine wires and coating small strip, probably used for winding electric motors. The paper cable plant is modern and extensive and is equipped throughout with overhead traveling cranes. Cables are manufactured here up to 35 kilovolts.

2. A newly constructed bay for the manufacture of steel-cored aluminum cable is located alongside the paper cable works. The plant is used for the manufacture of the new 400 kv overhead line for outdoor distribution. The machine used for producing this cable was large although it appeared to be running slowly. There is a department containing a press for extruding aluminum on to paper cable. The press is of German origin, and the Soviets have undoubtedly acquired the German technique in handling it. A purity of 99.9 percent is obtained for the aluminum used for the sheaths. The plant officials were a little reluctant to give precise details on the amount of aluminum-covered cable produced. There is only one press for aluminum extrusion, and no details of output were given. Interest in aluminum cable appears to be based on the advantages of aluminum over lead, i.e., lightness, cheapness, and strength. No impression was received that there is any shortage of lead.

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3. the plant contains a considerable number of new machines imported from East Germany. The wire-drawing machines are very old-fashioned, however, and were only operating

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at about half the speed of [REDACTED] machines. The buildings are of poor quality, and the sanitary arrangements for the workers are "positively appalling". From the [REDACTED] entrance the offices and staircases gave the impression of a very old, poorly-decorated factory, but from the employees' entrance the factory is well-lighted, reasonably well-decorated, and there are overhead cranes over all bays. It is spotlessly clean, and working conditions are good.

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